



# The Scoop



Issue 1

November 4, 2012

## Anticipating Advent



3

This year's Faith Learning Curriculum, "Circle of Seasons" introduces children and youth to the Lutheran church calendar. Our first unit of study has been "Anticipating Advent." To learn more about what we've been up to on Sunday mornings, turn to page three!

## Reformation Sunday



2

On Sunday, October 28<sup>th</sup>, our K-5 students arrived at the Lutheran Learning Lounge to find a bunch of papers taped to the door. Together, we worked to complete a message on the board. What did it say? Turn the page to find out!

## Ten o'clock Rocks!



3

One of the most important parts of our Faith Learning experience is our weekly opening time. Turn to page three to hear from our students about what makes 10:00 rock!

See page five for some puzzle fun! 😊



Our first service project involved a trip to the Northeast Food Bank where Mackenzie, Emily, Lily, Michael, Jenn and Sarah spent the morning emptying spoiled boxes of oatmeal to be composted.

## Love thy Neighbor

New to Faith Learning this year is an emphasis on SERVICE. As a core part of our weekly opening time and during monthly **Service Sundays**, we are exploring what it means to live our mission, "Connect with God and Other People to Make a Difference" as children and youth of Holy Cross. In the Youth space, we have undertaken such projects as a trip to serve at the Northeast Georgia Food Bank and leaving letters on the sanctuary pews.

Our younger Lutherans spent their first Service Sunday sorting through a number of resources and brainstorming particular issues they hope to address as a group. We voted on the issues, and agreed to start by on addressing hunger and helping animals. We have decided to tackle hunger first as our Faith Learning mission coincides so nicely with the larger congregation's holiday emphasis. We then listed potential actions we could take together. Turn the page to see some of the plans we already have in place to make a difference!

Continued on page 2



## Feeding the Community

The children and youth will be “Connecting with God and Other People to Make a Difference” this holiday season. Our focus: HUNGER in our local and global communities.

## Reformation (continued)

Look to the right. Can you figure out what our message says?

On Reformation Sunday, we discussed the origins of the Lutheran faith as represented in some of Martin Luther’s writings. We began by differentiating between Martin Luther and Martin Luther King, Jr... 😊

Then we discussed the practice of indulgences and Luther’s argument that individuals need not pay for forgiveness. Children offered insightful reflections on the differences between their own faith and the practices Luther challenged. Ronnie Wanzler offered, “I think God forgives people just like we should forgive each other. We shouldn’t have to pay money.”

We also created red bracelets and necklaces to wear and distribute to friends and family.

## Love thy Neighbor (continued)

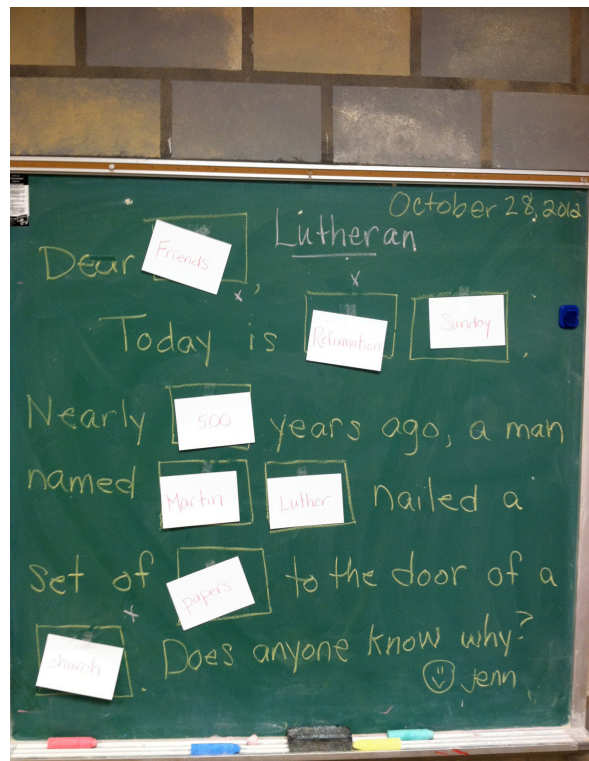
The students have many ideas about how to address hunger in our local and global communities. Among them are: a bake sale, cooking a meal for others, fundraising to buy animals from Heifer International, and visits to the food bank. We have decided to combine our efforts with the larger Advent effort, **Four Weeks of Christmas**:

**On November 18<sup>th</sup>**, the children and youth will set up and serve the Holy Cross Thanksgiving Dinner.

**On November 28<sup>th</sup>**, the children will prepare and serve our *Fat Wednesday* meal at Holy Cross. Donations will be collected and put toward our fundraising effort for Heifer International.

**On December 1, 8, 15 and 22** the children and youth are invited to work with adults on an intergenerational service project at the Northeast Georgia Food Bank. We will meet on Saturdays at the church at 8:30am and work from 9-12. Children, youth and families are welcome to attend any or all of these outings!

We’re still trying to work in the bake sale idea! Contact Jenn James if interested in helping!





## 10:00 Rocks!

10:00-10:15 on Sunday mornings is a *magical* time—our very own small groups connect!

**Opening Time** has become an important space for building relationships, checking in with one another, sharing a snack, saying prayers for group members and others, singing together, and discussing the big ideas we will explore in our rotations. Opening takes place in three spaces: **Lutheran Learning Lounge (K-5), Youth Room (6-12) and the Nursery (Little Lambs)**. Students and teachers agree that this time is an important place for our Faith Learning Community.

### Hear from students:

Zoe Johnson: In opening we have snacks, songs like *Hallelujah*, *This Little Light of Mine*, and *Jesus Loves Me*. We pray about people that are sick or not feeling good. We eat snacks like goldfish, Oreos or pretzels, and we ask others how their week has been going, like going swimming, to a friends house or having a sleepover.

Grace James: I like snack!

Donna Maria Mattocks: I like seeing my friends and finding out which workshop I will go to. I also like it when we eat!

Douglas Mattocks: Me too! I like the food!

Sarah James: I like that we share about our week and sing happy birthday for each other.

## Anticipating Advent

After spending our first two weeks getting to know new friends and reconnecting with old ones, we began our initial Faith Learning unit, “Anticipating Advent.” Though Advent hasn’t yet begun, we have spent time learning about the significance of the season. Specifically, we have talked about Advent as a time to prepare for Christmas. As part of this study, we have explored various ways that we “get ready for” important visitors--cleaning our homes, clearing our calendars, and making preparations that will make visitors feel welcome. Just like we do for friends and family, we are preparing to do for Jesus. Getting ready, anticipating, clearing space and time in our hearts and in our lives for what is to come!

As part of this journey, all students (Little Lambs through 8<sup>th</sup> grade) have visited some portion of our rotations, having opportunities to make advent wreaths, to produce an Advent video (keep a look out!), dramatize the moment Mary learned she would become a mother, and much, much more!

### K.I.D.S. Club!

On Saturday, October 22, K.I.D.S. Club members walked from Holy Cross campus to Athens Little Playhouse to see a live production of “101 Dalmatians: Kids,” starring our own Grace James!



### THANKSGIVING DINNER

Our next K.I.D.S. Club Event will take place on **Sunday, November 18<sup>th</sup>**. Children and youth will work together to help set up and serve food at our Holy Cross Thanksgiving Dinner. Details to follow.



In anticipation of the Christmas season, Savannah Johnson creates a nativity scene in the Crafts Room.

# Coming Up...

You won't want to miss these exciting Faith Learning Events! Mark your calendars!

- Nov 4<sup>th</sup>: Faith Learning Coffees (10:15, 12:30)
- Nov 18<sup>th</sup>: Christmas Programming begins during FL hour  
K.I.D.S. Club-Thanksgiving Dinner
- Nov 25<sup>th</sup>: 10:00 Christmas Movie (Bring a pillow!)
- Nov 28<sup>th</sup>: FAT WEDNESDAY Dinner!
- Dec 1<sup>st</sup>: Food Bank 9-12 (meet at Holy Cross at 8:30am)
- Dec 2<sup>nd</sup>: Christmas Programming during FL hour
- Dec 8<sup>th</sup>: Food Bank 9-12 (meet at Holy Cross at 8:30am)
- Dec 9<sup>th</sup>: Christmas Programming during FL hour
- Dec 15<sup>th</sup>: Food Bank 9-12 (meet at Holy Cross at 8:30am)
- Dec 16<sup>th</sup>: 10:00 Christmas Show!
- Dec 22<sup>nd</sup>: Food Bank 9-12 (meet at Holy Cross at 8:30am)
- Dec 23<sup>rd</sup>: Intergenerational Faith Learning Hour! 10:00-11:00

MANY THANKS to our Faith Learning Instructors and Volunteers!

- Aneela Qureshi, Little Lambs
- Nilka Clayton, Little Lambs
- Donna Butler, Drama
- Joy Mattocks, Drama
- Barbara Hawman, Crafts
- Kristin Bane, Crafts
- Rob Hawman, Upper Elementary
- CD Mattocks, Middle School
- Megan Williams, Middle School
- Michael Ackerman, High School
- Anne Steging, Opening Music
- Becky Kerr, Special Music

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